

House File 2548 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2136)

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to public access to certain vital statistics
2 records.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
4 TLSB 6325HV 82
5 rh/rj/5

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1 1 Section 1. Section 144.43, Code 2007, is amended to read
1 2 as follows:
1 3 144.43 VITAL RECORDS CLOSED TO INSPECTION == EXCEPTIONS.
1 4 1. To Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, in
1 5 order to protect the integrity of vital statistics records, to
1 6 ensure their proper use, and to ensure the efficient and
1 7 proper administration of the vital statistics system kept by
1 8 the state registrar, access to vital statistics records kept
1 9 by the state registrar shall be limited to the state registrar
1 10 and the state registrar's employees, and then only for
1 11 administrative purposes. It shall be unlawful for the state
1 12 registrar to permit inspection of, or to disclose information
1 13 contained in vital statistics records, or to copy or permit to
1 14 be copied all or part of any such record except as authorized
1 15 by regulation rules.
1 16 2. However, the The following vital statistics records may
1 17 be inspected and copied as of right under chapter 22 when they
1 18 are in the custody of a county registrar or when they such
1 19 records are either in the custody of the state archivist and
1 20 are at least seventy-five years old or are in the custody of a
1 21 county registrar:
1 22 1. a. A record of birth.
1 23 2. b. A record of marriage.
1 24 3. c. A record of divorce, dissolution of marriage, or
1 25 annulment of marriage.
1 26 4. d. A record of death if that death was not a fetal
1 27 death.
1 28 3. A public record shall not be withheld from the public
1 29 because it the public record is combined with data processing
1 30 software. The state registrar shall not implement any
1 31 electronic data processing system for the storage,
1 32 manipulation, or retrieval of vital records that would impair
1 33 a county registrar's ability to permit the examination of a
1 34 public record and the copying of a public record, as
1 35 established by rule. If it is necessary to separate a public
2 1 record from data processing software in order to permit the
2 2 examination of the public record, the county registrar shall
2 3 periodically generate a written log available for public
2 4 inspection which contains the public record.
2 5 EXPLANATION
2 6 This bill provides that certain vital statistics records,
2 7 i.e., birth records, marriage records, divorce records,
2 8 dissolution of marriage records, annulment of marriage
2 9 records, and death records, except for fetal death records,
2 10 may be inspected and copied pursuant to Iowa's open records
2 11 law (Code chapter 22) when such records are either in the
2 12 custody of the state archivist and are at least 75 years old
2 13 or are in the custody of a county registrar (county recorder).
2 14 LSB 6325HV 82
2 15 rh/rj/5